

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
UNIVERSITY REACTOR SHARING PROGRAM
2001-02 ACADEMIC YEAR

OVERVIEW

Introduction

The University Reactor Sharing Program derives its statutory authority from the U.S. Department of Energy Organization Act, Public Law 95-91, which was enacted to provide for the development of technologies and processes to reduce total energy consumption and enhance energy production. The purpose of this program is to make available university nuclear reactor facilities to non-reactor owning colleges or universities and other education institutions—(user institutions). This is accomplished by providing awards to reactor-owning universities (host institutions). These grants provide funds against which reactor operation costs may be charged when the facilities are utilized by user institutions for student instruction or for student or faculty research. Under this program, allowable reactor operation costs restricted to the categories listed in the Section titled “Reimbursable Costs” on Page 3.

Objectives

The objectives of this program are to strengthen nuclear science and engineering instruction in the curricula of the nonreactor owning colleges and universities, as well as research opportunities and application of nuclear analytical techniques for faculty and students in science and engineering. University research reactors can be used as versatile neutron sources and in specialized research projects. By making them available to other colleges and universities a contribution is made to the education and research opportunities for pre-college, undergraduate, and graduate students, and university faculty members. During Fiscal Year 2001, the DOE anticipates that approximately \$600,000 will be available for this activity.

Qualifications, Restrictions and Evaluation Criteria

In accordance with 10 CFR-600.7(b)(1), eligibility for these grants is restricted to U.S. colleges and universities with nuclear reactor facilities because they have a unique opportunity to enable other institutions to participate in important aspects of the nation’s nuclear science and engineering educational programs. An independent peer-review panel will recommend to DOE the amount of individual awards. DOE will make the final determination regarding the amounts of the awards. The recommendations will be based on the following:

1. Is the research reactor available and accessible to the potential user?
2. What is type of activity be requested. How many students and faculty members are participating in the activity.

3. What is the evidence of the level interest on the part of the potential user? What qualification do they have regarding this potential utilization?
4. What are the identifiable short-term and long-term benefits of the reactor sharing activity? Are they specifically defined and does it appear that these benefits will be met.

DOE reserves the right to fund, in whole or in part, any, all, or none of the requested funding level, that are submitted in applications to this program. All negotiations, awards, and administration will be in accordance with the DOE Financial Assistance Policy.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Institutional Eligibility

Any educational institution within the United States, which operates a research or training reactor, is eligible to submit a new award or renewal application to participate in the University Reactor Sharing Program. As indicated in the criteria listed in the previous section, in evaluating the applications for this program, preference is given to institutions that can show an affiliation with a substantial number of regional educational institutions which have indicated interest in using the applicant's reactor facility, or who have used the facilities during the previous award year.

User Institutions

User institutions eligible for participation in the program are primarily educational institutions such as universities and colleges, junior colleges, technical and community colleges, and all pre-college levels. User groups or individuals affiliated with the host institution are eligible for limited assistance, up to 35% of the award, under this program. Also excluded are research activities undertaken by an educational institution for which grant or contract funding is provided by other sources. The selection and scheduling of user institution participants is the responsibility of the host institution.

Scope of Program Projects

The projects include experiments, demonstrations, experiments, seminars, workshops, and tours. They may include groups of pre-college and college students and individual trips by students and faculty members who are preparing to perform research or they are involved in the actual performance of their research experiments. Master's and Doctoral thesis participants are strongly encouraged. Types of reactor utilizations may include activities such as service irradiations, analytical support, materials testing, archaeological dating, and other data and equipment uses.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Duration of Grants

Funds for the University Reactor Sharing Program are provided through a financial assistance grant with the host institution. Charges may be made by the host institution against funds for services rendered to user institutions. The terms of a grant normally will be one year, subject to modifications and the renewal of the grant.

Reimbursable Costs

Costs for reimbursement are limited to the following.

1. Payments for irradiation services not to exceed the established, published schedule of the host institution.
2. Payments for use of the reactor and related facilities based upon established rates of the host institution.
3. Costs of technical assistance furnished by the host institution for conduct of studies by a user institution.
4. Costs of materials and supplies, which are attributed to the user institution.

Charges should not be made to the grant for costs that are already incurred as part of the normal operating expenses of the facility. Laboratory equipment and instrumentation are not eligible items for reimbursement. Indirect or other types of overhead charges are not allowed. Costs for individual or group travel or subsistence are normally not allowed or encouraged. Exceptions are permitted, under unusual circumstances, with the signed approval of the project director.

REPORTS

Annual Report

An annual report summarizing activities supported under this award is required from the host institution. This report is due within 90 days after the end of the grant period. The report should contain specific information using the following format.

University:

Location:

Project Director:

Telephone Number/Email Address:

Grant Number:

Reactor Type:

<u>Participating Institution</u>	<u>Principal Investigator</u>	<u>Number of Students</u>	<u>Number of Faculty</u>	<u>Description of Project</u>	<u>Amount of RS Funds</u>
		(Indicate grade level)		(Single Para- graph)	\$

It is requested that letter size paper be used with a minimum font of 10.

Application Preparation

An application should include the following items.

1. A statement regarding the relative availability of the reactor to external users.
2. An assessment of the colleges, universities, and pre-college institutions within the proposing institutions region/or existing

- partnerships, which can or have been served by the reactor facility.
3. Evidence of interest on the part of potential and or former users, which contain brief statement of interests and plans for utilizing the applicant's reactor facility during the proposed grant period.
 4. Applications must include a completed Standard Form 424, "Application for Federal Assistance"; a DOE Form 4600.4 "Federal Assistance Budget Information"; DOE Form 1600.5 "Assurance of Compliance Nondiscrimination in Federally Assisted Programs"; and "Certifications Regarding Lobbying, Debarment, Suspensions and Other Responsibility Matters; and Drug-Free Workplace Requirements".

All application materials can be sent to any applicant electronically by using the following email address. cwilliamson@msn.com

Submission of Applications

The original and five copies of the application should be submitted to:

University-Laboratory Associates
P.O. Box 1067
Norris, TN 37828

The application should be signed on the cover sheet by the person officially responsible for the grant if it is awarded and by the cognizant university official.

The deadline for applications is January 22, 2000.

Telephone, fax or email inquires concerning information in this solicitation and/or about the program policies, procedures and activities may be directed to:

Craig Williamson
(865) 494-7069
(865) 494-6301 fax
cwilliamson@msn.com

Review and Funding of Applications

All applications submitted to this program will be reviewed and evaluated by a panel of experts in education, training and research reactor systems. This panel will provide the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) with a set of recommendations regarding priorities based on the amount of funding available for this program. DOE is responsible for making the final determination on the approval of funds for all awards.